

## Cross-Reference To Related Applications

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This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/867,197, entitled "Method and System For Providing Wideband Communications To Mobile Users in a Satellite-based Network" filed on June 2, 1997, <sup>now US Patent 6,032,041</sup> the subject matter of such co-pending application being incorporated herein by reference.

## Technical Field

This invention relates to methods and systems for providing broadband communications to mobile users in a satellite-based communications network.

## Background Of The Invention

Wired terrestrial systems offer communications at high data rates, but only while the user is sitting behind a computer. As soon as the user goes to a conference room, walks outside an office building, gets into a car, or drives to a park, the connection is lost. Mobility, however, can be supported in one of two ways, namely terrestrial-based wireless networks or satellite-based communications systems.

Terrestrial-based wireless networks provide voice or data communications between a mobile user and a fixed user or to other mobile users, as well as communications for modem-equipped computers and other similar devices such as mobile facsimile machines.